

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 203755
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 INR-07 PA-02 SP-02 /066 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. NEWMANN

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----060649 252329Z /75

O 252233Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 203755

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
USIA
NSC
CIA

UNCLAS STATE 203755

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 25

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 25,
1977. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR SOME OTHER BRANCH OF THE
GOVERNMENT DEALING WITH THE PLO KILLERS AND OTHERS ABOUT
THE MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHITE
HOUSE, OR PERHAPS HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 203755

A. JOE (POLAKOFF--CORRESPONDENT, JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY),
WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH THE PLO AT ALL, IN ANY DIRECT WAY.

Q. NO PART OF THE GOVERNMENT IS DEALING WITH THE PLO IN
ANY DIRECT WAY?

A. NO, SIR.

Q. HOW ARE WE DEALING WITH THEM INDIRECTLY BESIDES --

A. JUST THE WAY IT'S BEEN DESCRIBED MANY TIMES.

Q. WELL, I KNOW. WE HEARD ABOUT THE CONTACTS WITH THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST THAT HAVE CONTACTS WITH
THE PLO AND FINANCE THEM AND SUPPLY THEM WITH ARMS, TOO,
DON'T THEY? ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY?

A. IF I SAID ANYTHING THE OTHER DAY IT WAS MERELY TO
REPEAT WHAT THE SECRETARY HAD SAID ABOUT EXCHANGING VIEWS
OR GETTING THE VIEWS OF THE PLO AND OTHER PALESTINIAN
ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE ARAB LEADERS THAT HE WAS IN
CONTACT WITH. THAT'S THE EXTENT OF WHAT I SAID THE OTHER

DAY, AND THAT'S THE EXTENT OF WHAT I'M SAYING TODAY.

Q. WELL, I HAVE HERE AN ITEM WHICH MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST TO YOU IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT, THAT SAYS THAT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD AN OPEN AND DIRECT MEETING WITH A PLO OFFICIAL. I'M WONDERING WHETHER THE BRITISH ARE HELPING US TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE PLO, TOO, IN SOME WAY?

A. JOE, I'M REALLY NOT ABLE TO DETAIL FOR YOU WHAT THE BRITISH ARE DOING AND CERTAINLY NOT TO GET INTO DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES AND CONTACTS WE HAVE WITH THE BRITISH.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 203755

Q. THEN, THERE'S ANOTHER POINT THAT MR. ARAFAT -- I CALL HIM "MR." OUT OF RESPECT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT --

A. THANK YOU, JOE, FOR THAT ENCOMIUM OR WHATEVER.

Q. THE CHIEF OF THIS MURDEROUS BAND CALLED THE PLO SAID THAT EGYPT'S MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY IS QUOTING MR. ARAFAT AS SAYING THAT THE PLO IS ANXIOUS TO BEGIN DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WAS AWAITING A U.S. REPLY TO A REQUEST FILED LAST YEAR TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.

I KNOW THE BACKGROUND OF WHAT HAPPENED LAST NOVEMBER, I BELIEVE IT WAS, BUT WHERE DO WE STAND NOW ON THIS REQUEST? HOW DID WE EVER GET THIS REQUEST?

A. THE REQUEST IS SUPPOSED TO BE TO OPEN AN OFFICE?

Q. IN THE UNITED STATES.

A. WELL, JOE, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT SPECIFIC REQUEST. THIS MORNING WE POSTED AN ANSWER, I THINK TO A QUESTION

YOU GAVE ME A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO OR YESTERDAY, WHICH SAYS THAT IT'S NOT REQUIRED TO GET PERMISSION TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE AS LONG AS THE OFFICE IS REGISTERED AND THE PEOPLE WHO OPERATE IT AND ARE REGISTERED WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT HAVE ENTERED THE COUNTRY LEGALLY AND ARE ENGAGED IN LEGAL ACTIVITIES.

Q. JOHN, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THAT HAS ALL HAPPENED AND AN INFORMATION OFFICE IS TO BE OPENED?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 203755

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT AN INFORMATION OFFICE IS TO BE OPENED, NO.

Q. JOHN, DOES ONE HAVE TO REGISTER UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT IF ONE REPRESENTS A FOREIGN ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN A FOREIGN SOVEREIGN POWER?

A. I THINK THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CASES LIKE THAT.

Q. AND THEY DO HAVE TO REGISTER?

A. I BELIEVE SO. I COULD CHECK THAT, BUT I THINK THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PRECEDENTS FOR THAT.

Q. BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE LITERATURE IS ALWAYS STAMPED "REGISTERED AS AN AGENT OF A FOREIGN POWER" --

Q. "FOREIGN PRINCIPAL."

Q. I'M SORRY. I'M SAYING IT SEEMED TO ME THAT SOME LITERATURE HAS SAID "REGISTERED AS AN AGENT OF A FOREIGN POWER" AND GRAHAM NOW SAYS IT'S "FOREIGN PRINCIPAL." BUT I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT WHETHER AN ORGANIZATION IS REQUIRED TO DO THE SAME THING THAT A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY IS.

A. O.K. IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH.

Q. HAVE YOU CHECKED RECENTLY, JOHN, TO FIND OUT WHETHER ANY PLO OFFICIALS HAVE MADE ANY EFFORT TO GET A VISA TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES BEYOND -- I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS SESSION NOW, BUT EITHER TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES OR TO COME TO WASHINGTON?

A. LET ME LOOK INTO THAT FOR YOU, JOHN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 203755

Q. WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION? HAVE YOU CHECKED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS?

A. I HAVE, BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET YOU AN ANSWER.

Q. WOULD IT BE ILLEGAL, SAY, FOR SOME MIDDLE EASTERNERS TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES FROM COUNTRIES THAT HAVE

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OPEN AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON -- OR ANYPLACE IN THE UNITED STATES ON AMERICAN SOIL -- AND DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION ON BEHALF OF THE PLO, WHATEVER THEY WANT, AND MINGLE WITH THE MEDIA AND TRY TO SELL THEIR STORY TO THEM?

WOULD THIS BE LEGAL UNDER WHAT YOU'RE SAYING THIS MORNING?

A. JOE, I DON'T KNOW. I WOULD HAVE TO GET A SPECIFIC CASE OF A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM A SPECIFIC COUNTRY WITH A SPECIFIC PASSPORT AND SPECIFIC VISA.

Q. WOULD IT BE FAIR TO ASSUME THAT WHAT YOU'VE SAID TODAY OPENS THE DOOR FOR THE OPENING OF A PLO -- AN OFFICE DISTRIBUTING PLO INFORMATION OR PROPAGANDA, OR WHATEVER IT IS TO BE CALLED, IN WASHINGTON?

A. I DON'T THINK WHAT I SAID TODAY OPENS THE DOOR, JOE, TO ANYTHING. I'M SIMPLY STATING THE REQUIREMENTS TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON OR IN THIS COUNTRY.

Q. JOHN, AM I INCORRECT THAT THE PLO AS AN ORGANIZATION DID REQUEST PERMISSION TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE AND THAT PERMISSION WAS GRANTED --

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY ASKED TO REGISTER AND SO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 203755

FORTH OR NOT. PERMISSION PER SE, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IS NOT REQUIRED. REGISTRATION AND LEGAL ACTIVITY AND ENTRY IS REQUIRED.

CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE203755
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REUNDELAND:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770308-0223
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770822/aaaaarxr.tel
Line Count: 261
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f8ce852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1481455
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 25
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PLO
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f8ce852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009